



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/029,240	12/28/2001	Seong Jin Jo	LT-0009	5026
34610	7590	11/03/2005		
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP P.O. BOX 221200 CHANTILLY, VA 20153			EXAMINER BAYAT, BRADLEY B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3621	
DATE MAILED: 11/03/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/029,240

Applicant(s)

JO, SEONG JIN

Examiner

Bradley B. Bayat

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 August 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

This communication is in response to reply filed August 9, 2005. Claims 1-29 remain pending.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 8/9/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant has merely indicated that the rejection of claim 7 is "traversed because the claim is definite in view of the specification (response p. 2). Claim 7 is indefinite due to the wording and language of the claim. The examiner cannot determine the nature of the claimed subject matter, regardless of the specification. The applicant is directed to review the wording of the claim.

As per the rejections under USC 102 and 103, the applicant has argued that neither of the references disclose or suggest "the claimed features and combination thereof. Id. As indicated in the previous action and submitted below, the referenced citation of each reference and the explanation under USC 103 specify the reasoning for the rejection. Kasajima as indicated below teaches the features of the claimed subject matter and referenced after each claim below.

As per claims 15-18, Kasajima discloses method of managing use of a household appliance, namely, a washing machine through a communication network, comprising: receiving information on washing machine usage through the communication network; calculating a charge for use of the washing machine based on the received information; transmitting the calculated charge to a user's terminal through the communication network (see summary and

Art Unit: 3621

rejection above). Although Kasajima discloses a charging mechanism and an activation method, it does not explicitly disclose a sensor mechanism that encompasses multiple functional techniques with regards to usage and the household appliance. Abrams teaches remotely controlling household appliances (abstract) via a first network processor for performing remote communication with an external internet network to receive external remote control information (col. 3, lines 17-19 and lines 45-47), first network processor 30 being connected to home network to transmit the receive remote control information to an associated one of household appliances and receive information regarding a current state of each of household appliances to transmit the received state information to external internet network (col. 3, lines 15-25, line 45-50 and lines 58-67), the input of an associated one of household appliances via a power line for receiving remote control information from first network processor and transmitting the state information of the associated household appliance to first network processor (col. 4, lines 4-32). Abrams further discloses a sensor mechanism that transmits signals bi-directionally to and from the household appliance (see figure 17 and associated text). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Kasajima's invention to utilize the specified household appliance utilization benefits in order to further control, determine various charges based on settings and usage of the subscribing customer in order to further improve the efficiency of the remote charge mechanism and method employed.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 7 states, "sending a for use of the appliance after each use of the appliance to a corresponding subscriber." The examiner cannot determine the nature of this claim; the applicant particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kasajima et al. (hereinafter Kasajima), US 2002/0007304 A1.

As per the following claims, Kasajima discloses:

1. A method of managing use of an appliance, comprising: receiving information on a use of the appliance through a communication network; calculating a charge for the use of the appliance based on the received use information; and transmitting the calculated charge to a user's terminal through the communication network (¶10-20; 130-134).

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said appliance is a washing machine (§37).
3. The method of claim 2, wherein said received use information for calculating a charge includes at least one of a type of washing machine, a load capacity of the washing machine, a motor type of the washing machine, an amount of clothes to be washed, a selected washing course program, a selected washing time, a selected number of washing repetitions, a selected number of agitation or spin cycles, and a number of rinsing repetitions (§55, 116).
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the appliance is activated by a start signal from a registered subscriber's personal computer or a mobile terminal (§125-128).
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising: entering a subscriber number and a unique number of an appliance through a communication network; authenticating said subscriber number and said unique number of an appliance; and activating said appliance if said subscriber number and said unique number of an appliance are authentic (§55-58).
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the user's terminal is a personal computer or a mobile terminal (§116).
7. The method of claim 1, further comprising sending a for use of the appliance after each use of the appliance to a corresponding subscriber (examiner cannot determine the scope of this limitation).

Claims 8-14 are rejected as above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 15-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kasajima, in view of Abrams et al. (Abrams), U.S. 6,587,739 B1.

As per claims 15-18, Kasajima discloses method of managing use of a household appliance, namely, a washing machine through a communication network, comprising: receiving information on washing machine usage through the communication network; calculating a charge for use of the washing machine based on the received information; transmitting the calculated charge to a user's terminal through the communication network (see summary and rejection above). Although Kasajima discloses a charging mechanism and an activation method, it does not explicitly disclose a sensor mechanism that encompasses multiple functional techniques with regards to usage and the household appliance. Abrams teaches remotely controlling household appliances (abstract) via a first network processor for performing remote communication with an external internet network to receive external remote control information (col. 3, lines 17-19 and lines 45-47), first network processor 30 being connected to home network to transmit the receive remote control information to an associated one of household appliances and receive information regarding a current state of each of household appliances to

Art Unit: 3621

transmit the received state information to external internet network (col. 3, lines 15-25, line 45-50 and lines 58-67), the input of an associated one of household appliances via a power line for receiving remote control information from first network processor and transmitting the state information of the associated household appliance to first network processor (col. 4, lines 4-32). Abrams further discloses a sensor mechanism that transmits signals bi-directionally to and from the household appliance (see figure 17 and associated text). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Kasajima's invention to utilize the specified household appliance utilization benefits in order to further control, determine various charges based on settings and usage of the subscribing customer in order to further improve the efficiency of the remote charge mechanism and method employed.

Claims 19-29 directed to substantially similar subject matter are rejected as above.

Although the Examiner has pointed out particular references contained in the prior art(s) of record in the body of this action, the specified citations are merely representative of the teachings in the art as applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim. Since other passages and figures may apply to the claimed invention as well, it is respectfully requested that the applicant, in preparing the response, to consider fully the entire references as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior arts or disclosed by the examiner.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- US Patent 6,167,358 to Othmer et al.
- USPAP 2002/0073183 A1 to Yoon et al.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bradley B. Bayat whose telephone number is 571-272-6704. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday - Friday 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m. and by email: bradley.bayat@uspto.gov.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached regarding urgent matters at 571-272-6712.

Art Unit: 3621

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300 - Official communications; including After Final responses.

(571) 273-6704 - Informal/Draft communications to the examiner.

bbb



JAMES P. TRAMMELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600